

REMARKS

I. Amendments to the Specification

The amendments to the paragraph beginning at page 22, line 18 correct an obvious omission by adding the word “electron” between “scanning” and “microscope,” and by adding the phrase “at the center and surfaces of the porous film.” These amendments are supported, for example, by the paragraph at page 24, lines 6-17 and by Figures 7 and 8.

The amendment to the paragraph beginning at page 22, line 28 corrects a typographical error and finds support, for example at page 18, line 34 through page 19, line 2.

No new matter has been introduced by any of these amendments.

II. Amendments to the Claims

Claims 1-14 have been canceled. New claims 15-27 have been added. New claims 15-27 differ from the allowed claims 1-4, 6, 7, 10 and 15-20 of the abandoned parent application 09/539,929 in that the recited limits of the mean pore size have been narrowed in claims 15 and 21 from 0.01 – 5 μm to 0.01 – 2 μm . Support for this narrowing of the range of the mean pore size can be found, for example, in the specification in Examples 1-10. No new matter has been introduced by the addition of the new claims.

III. Refiling of IDS

Because the IDS that was filed on February 25, 2004 was inadvertently left unsigned, the IDS is being resubmitted herewith. An additional document - JP 2-2856 - has been added to the list of IDS references. A partial English translation of JP 2-2856 accompanies a copy of the original Japanese language document.

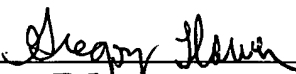
Applicants would like to point out that JP 2-2856 discloses a porous film for gas filtration having a mean pore size of 0.1 to 0.5 μm . The film described by JP 2-2856 has a “sparse finger-shaped” or “void-like” structure in an internal layer adjacent to a dense surface layer. In contrast, the film of Applicants’ invention does not contain such structures and is therefore distinguishable from the JP 2-2856 disclosure for at least this reason.

If there are any fees due in connection with the filing of this amendment, please charge the fees to our Deposit Account No. 50-310. If a fee is required for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 not accounted for above, such an extension is requested and the fee should also be charged to our Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted

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